

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Down syndrome is one of the most frequently occurring chromosomal abnormalities, with over 80 percent of children with Down syndrome born to mothers under the age of 35 and affecting more than 400,000 individuals and their families in the United States; and,

*Whereas*, Individuals with Down syndrome are active and willing participants in the educational, vocational, social, and recreational aspects of our communities; and,

*Whereas*, The Buddy Walk™ has grown to over 270 walks across the country and around the world, and has raised over \$9.5 million to benefit national education, research, and advocacy initiatives; and,

*Whereas*, The Ups and Downs Family Support Group nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing education, information, awareness events, social opportunities, and support to families of infants, children, and adults with Down syndrome; and,

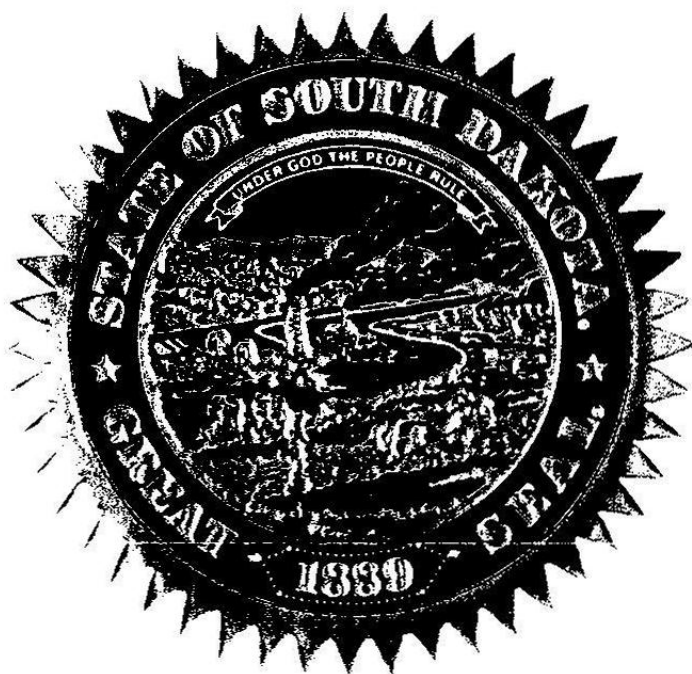
*Whereas*, The inspirational Chris Burke, also know as Corky Thatcher on the hit TV series "Life Goes On", along with Joe and John DeMasi, will lead the "Knology Presents the Ups of Downs Buddy Walk™ and Concert" in Rapid City on Saturday, September 6, 2008:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 6, 2008, as

## *DOWN SYNDROME BUDDY WALK™ DAY*

in South Dakota.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.



*M. Michael Rounds*  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

*Ch. Nelson*  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State